



# NEW MEDICAID RULES MAY HELP YOU!



**The rules have changed.** Due to a federal court order the FIA has changed how we count the income of "Caretaker Relatives" - close relatives who are raising a child in their home.

## **You may be eligible for Medicaid**

**or you may have a lower spend-down** under the new rules. The new rules require FIA to count less of your income when they determine your eligibility for Medicaid because you support the children in your home. If you were denied Medicaid or had a spend-down for Caretaker Relative Medicaid coverage on or after September 1, 1999, Medicaid may now be able to assist you under these new rules.

## **Will the new rules help me?**

The new rules may apply to you if you can answer "Yes" to BOTH of the following:



I am/was acting as the parent for a child who lives/lived in my home.

I am not the child's parent but I am a close relative, such as a:

- Grandparent
- Aunt or uncle
- Niece or nephew
- Any of the above relationships prefixed by grand, great or great-great
- Step-parent
- Sister or brother
- Stepsister or stepbrother
- First cousin
- First cousin once removed (i.e., a first cousin's child)
- The spouse of any person above, **even** after marriage is ended by death or divorce

## **What should I do?** to get Medicaid or a lower spend-down:

1. If you believe you can answer "Yes" to BOTH of the above, you should complete an FIA-1171, Assistance Application. To get an application form, call or visit your local FIA office (look under "State of Michigan" in the phone book), or use the internet. For online information, go to [www.michigan.gov/fia](http://www.michigan.gov/fia) for an application. Click on Assistance Programs, Medical Services, and select the form. You can mail in the application form.
2. If you were denied Medicaid or had a spend-down for Caretaker Relative Medicaid coverage on or after September 1, 1999, you may qualify for Medicaid or a reduced spend-down back to February 2003. **To be eligible for coverage back to February 2003, you must reapply no later than December 30, 2003.**
3. Tell your FIA specialist you are applying because of the Markva v. Haveman, #00-CV-10437 court case.

**Have questions or need help?** Contact the Center for Civil Justice at (800) 724-7441 (The Center will provide information or refer you to a local agency for help) or contact your local Family Independence Agency Office.

